

October 14, 2008  
Vol. 182, No. 41**FOR THE RECORD****Baptists**New Orleans Seminary takes steps to deal with record gas prices. *Page 2.***Kentucky**Sportsman's Outdoor Expo pursues hunting enthusiasts. *Page 3.***Financial Forum**Making a living will is easy, do not put it off. *Page 4.***Guest Editorial**Overcoming the fear factors of church worship styles. *Page 5.***Kentucky**Cooperative effort bolstered Taylor County crusade response. *Page 6.***Nation**Study suggests younger evangelicals are less conservative than elders. *Page 9.***Kentucky Baptists wrap up relief work in wake of storms****Louisville**—After four straight weeks of service, Kentucky Baptist disaster relief volunteers recently completed their work in Louisiana, Texas and Kentucky as a result of hurricanes Gustav and Ike.

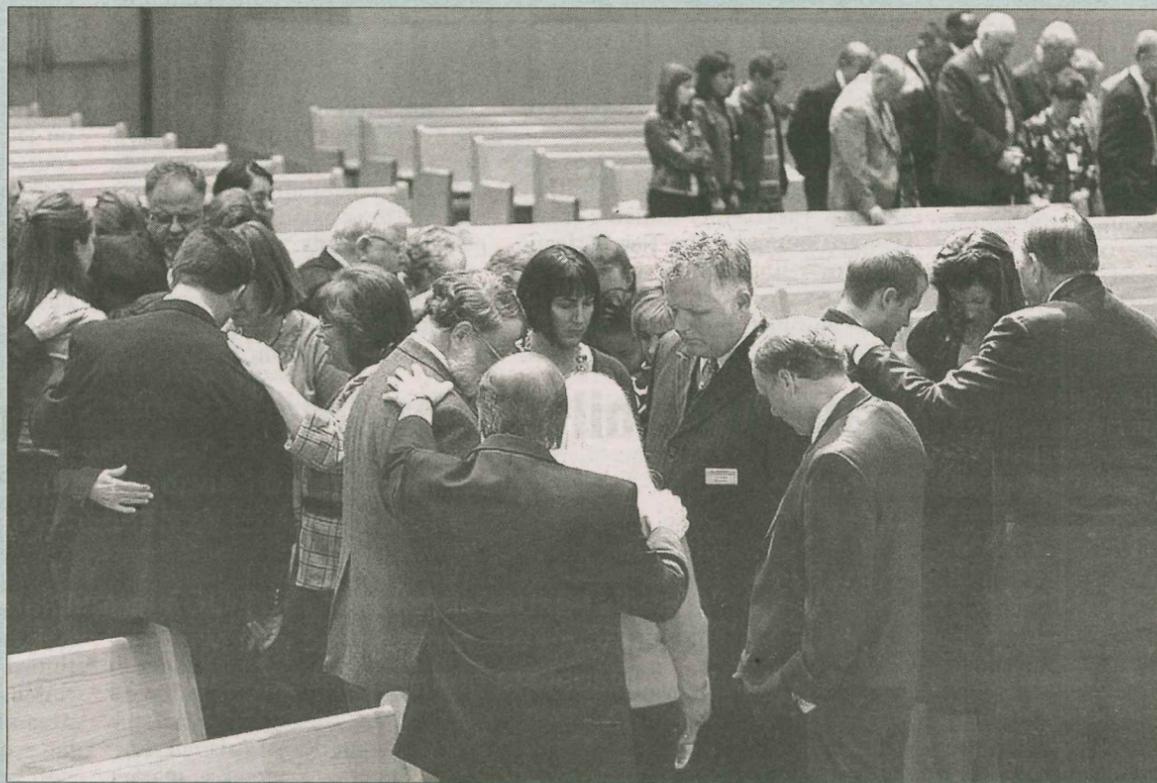
According to Coy Webb, Kentucky Baptist Convention's disaster relief associate, a total of 349 volunteers helped provide relief following Hurricane Gustav's landfall Sept. 1 in Louisiana, and Hurricane Ike's pummeling of the Texas coast Sept. 13.

The efforts also included relief to damaged areas of Kentucky caused by windstorms related to Hurricane Ike on Sept. 5.

Webb said volunteers working with a feeding unit helped provide a total of 219,081 meals and 37,000 snacks to residents in areas affected by the storms. The group's shower units provided more than 2,500 showers, and 129 chainsaw projects were completed.

"We want to thank our volunteers for their hard work and great response, both with Hurricane Gustav and Hurricane Ike," Webb noted. "We had a tremendous response in Texas, Louisiana and Kentucky. Their heart for ministry really helped make a difference in people's lives during difficult times."

"We have some of the best volunteers, and we are always grateful for their readiness to respond when there's a need."

**'Sent by the Father'**

As National Woman's Missionary Union Executive Director Wanda Lee led in prayer, 108 Southern Baptist North American Mission Board missionaries were surrounded by friends and family at a commissioning service at First Baptist Church of New Orleans Oct. 6. The diverse ministries of the missionaries commissioned during the celebration service include a woman who shares Christ with other women at a California crisis pregnancy center; a missionary who serves the urban population of Manhattan's Lower East Side; an urban church planter working in Canada's largest city, Toronto; a missionary who assists Hispanic pastors in North Carolina; and a chaplain who shares Christ with inmates at the Arkansas Department of Community Corrections in Little Rock. Several of the men and women commissioned during the service are working in the New Orleans area, which still is recovering from Hurricane Katrina which devastated the city in 2005. "New Orleans is still a mission field," David Crosby, pastor of First Baptist, New Orleans, told NAMB's newest crop of missionaries. **Story and more photos on page 8.** (NAMB photo by John Swain)

**Frankfort church plant turns abandoned factory into house of God****By Sara Gividen**  
*Frankfort State Journal***Frankfort**—It's a space of possibilities.

When The Point Community Church in Frankfort took over the building that once housed Trig Manufacturing, which closed in 1999, Jeremy Triplett, director of community groups, said church members saw only opportunity in the concrete flooring and steel ceilings.

Now, Triplett and others envision miraculous makeovers when walking through the dark space of the factory where air conditioning and thermometer parts once were assembled. He points to areas where conference rooms will take shape, as well as closets and offices.

The factory has been a blank canvas of sorts.

"It's great, we love it," Triplett said. "We love the look because things are different. We want to be a place people feel comfortable to come."

TPCC attendees are used to meeting in nontraditional, yet comfortable, locations. "We actually started meeting at an old skating rink," Pastor Rick Long recalled.

In the beginning churchgoers even used their own seating. "Really

early on, when we first started meeting, people brought lawn chairs," Triplett said.

That was almost three years ago. Long said the congregation quickly outgrew the rink and needed to relocate for better parking and accommodations.

In April 2006, The Point moved to the Trig factory—26 acres, 17,000 square feet—off U.S. 127 just past Interstate 64 in west Frankfort.

**Ongoing transformation**

For almost two years the factory has undergone numerous changes including the addition of a welcome area, children's and youth spaces, a coffee shop and worship stage complete with spotlights.

"The factory setting has proved to be very good for us since it offers lots of flexible use space," Long noted. "We are in the second phase of interior renovations, which will add more classroom space, a café, conference rooms and multi-purpose areas."

Church members volunteer time remodeling the space. They've built a white wall as a backdrop to the worship stage, added carpet and painted many rooms partitioned off in the building, Long pointed out.

The work goes on throughout the week, whenever helpers have time, Triplett said.

"People come all the time, we just have a great bunch of people who come to help," he added. "We've done it in a few phases."

"Right now we've done all the work ourselves," Long noted.

The café, used for meetings and "table groups"—TPCC's version of Sunday school—features tables purchased with funds collected by members and chairs donated by Frankfort's Grand Theater.

Triplett said church leaders have plans to expand the café to feature a coffee bar as well as pastries and other foods. "We'd like to do some more breakfast-type (foods) where people can hang out and it be warm and inviting," Triplett explained.

Currently, the café features photos taken by church members, but Triplett said he'd like to see more pieces from local artists on the walls.

A church in Bowling Green donated rows of red chairs for the main worship area. Much of the furniture has been given to the church by other organizations or community members, Long said.

The church also is tech-savvy. It

has wireless Internet capabilities, large screens to broadcast announcements, song lyrics and Bible verses, audio, spotlights and LCD TVs will be added to rooms for youth and children.

Making comfort a priority, rather than focusing on the traditional church architecture such as stained-glass windows and massive pulpits, allows The Point to appeal to a different demographic, Triplett insisted.

"There are a lot of people that (traditional church buildings and services) doesn't appeal to them," he pointed out. "We want to focus on the people and make church not so intimidating."

The Point Community Church is part of a church planting movement where worship takes place in non-traditional locations, such as movie theaters, old warehouses and school buildings.

"The factory setting is perfect for our rapidly growing children and youth ministries as well," Long noted. "A church meeting in a former factory facility is unique in our area but churches are meeting in cinemas, renovated retail spaces and warehouses across the country these days."

□ See Frankfort church ... *Page 3*

## Billy Graham returns home from hospital after fall

Montreat, N.C. (BP)—Evangelist Billy Graham returned home Oct. 11 after spending the previous night in an Asheville, N.C., hospital following a fall at his house.

Graham, who turns 90 Nov. 7, was hospitalized after tripping over one of his three dogs at his house, but X-rays showed no broken bones, a news release stated. Doctors gave Graham the option Friday night of returning home, but he chose to stay overnight instead of going home at such a late hour.

"Of course we worry any time a patient takes a fall, especially an older patient," Graham's doctor, Lucian Rice, was quoted as saying. "But while Mr. Graham is somewhat bruised, with some extremely sore muscles, he seems to have suffered no serious injuries, and in fact he was able to work on his physical therapy regimen first thing the next morning.

"I am encouraging him to remain as active as possible, but to be mindful of his dog, who likes to keep faithfully at his feet. I expect Mr. Graham to recover fully."

Graham most recently was hospitalized in February for elective replacement of a brain shunt.

## New Orleans Seminary takes steps to deal with gas prices

New Orleans (BP)—At a time when gasoline prices are crimping budgets, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary has taken steps to ease the burden on students and make theological education more accessible.

The efforts include a new online commuter connection center to aid in establishing carpools, a one-year exemption of the online course restrictions for main campus students, and Wednesday schedule changes. The cost-saving steps are designed to relieve some of the financial strain on commuter students throughout the seminary system.

"We want to be responsive to our commuter students, whether they are extension center students or students coming to the New Orleans campus," noted Steve Lemke, the seminary's provost. Increased fuel cost "is something we are all experiencing, but the burden falls much

harder on our commuting students. We want students to know that we are doing all we can to mitigate the dramatic increase in costs that they are experiencing."

A student with a 100-mile round-trip commute could spend several hundred dollars during a semester to travel to campus just one day a week, Lemke pointed out. The financial burden rises with each additional trip. And it is not uncommon for commuter students to travel to campus two or three days each week.

Through the online commuter connection forum, students may log in to the seminary's Web system to find other commuters from their area. The forum allows students to respond to carpooling requests and post new requests.

While many commuters already carpool, Lemke said he hopes the commuter connection will facilitate even more ride sharing for the semi-

nary's main campus or any of its extension center campuses.

"It is a way to help our students be good stewards of their own resources and of the environment," he explained.

The second initiative is a one-year exception to a rule prohibiting New Orleans students from taking online classes. In the past, on-campus and commuter students have not been allowed to take online classes.

"First of all, on-campus students have greater access to the courses they need," Lemke noted.

"Secondly, the seminary receives no SBC funding at all for Internet courses, whereas the SBC provides maximum funding for master's-level on-campus students," Lemke added. "In order to keep the regular tuition affordable for everyone, we had to limit who takes the Internet courses."

But in light of the increased gas-

oline costs, Lemke said seminary administrators decided to lift the restriction for one year.

A third initiative concerns changes in the Wednesday schedule at the New Orleans campus. Beginning with the fall semester, the seminary halted Wednesday chapel services at the main campus. Many commuter students were unable to attend chapel because they opted for a Tuesday-Thursday-only class schedule. The move opens the 11 a.m. Wednesday period for additional course offerings, making it easier for commuter students or other on-campus students to meet full-time course load requirements by taking classes just two days a week.

"Our hope is that all three of these moves will help our students overcome increased travel costs without slowing the theological education into which God has called them," Lemke said.

## Sale of FamilyNet building closes broadcast era

By Joe Westbury  
Georgia Christian Index

Fort Worth, Texas (BP)—The Southern Baptist North American Mission Board has sold its broadcast building in Fort Worth, Texas, closing a chapter on Southern Baptist involvement in broadcast media.

The FamilyNet (previously known as the Radio and Television Commission) building was purchased in the early 1960s after the then-Southern Baptist Radio Commission moved from Atlanta to the Texas locale.

The Fort Worth Star-Telegram reported Aug. 30 that NAMB had sold the facility to Chesapeake Energy Co. A NAMB spokesman said its records showed the sale being to Fort Worth Land, LLC.

The newspaper said plans for the 87,966-square-foot building on five acres have not been determined.

NAMB listed the building at \$3 million. Details of the sale were not available due to standard confidentiality agreements between the mission board and the purchaser. The property had been on the market since November 2007.

NAMB media representative Mike Ebert said the proceeds from the sale will go into the board's general budget fund. NAMB, like other SBC entities, is facing the possibility of a financial shortfall; SBC Cooperative Program receipts slipped 0.65 percent during the past year and, in NAMB's case, its 2008 Annie Armstrong Easter Offering also is trending at a 3-percent decline.

Southern Baptists most likely will remember the RTVC as the producer of such popular programming as "JOT," a children's animated series. In 1989, RTVC earned an Emmy Award for its documentary "China: Walls and Bridges."

As competition grew stronger in the mid-1980s with the advent of cable television, the commission developed the American Christian Television System to increase market share. But soaring programming costs eventually forced the RTVC to merge that network with another entity. SBC participation ended in 2003.

### Struggle to compete

The RTVC's greatest funding challenge was that it was fully dependent on denominational funding while other faith-based networks, such as Jim and Tammy Faye Baker's PTL and Pat Robertson's CBN, relied heavily on on-air pleas for cash from donors. It eventually became apparent that, regardless of its good intentions, its business model as a ministry of the SBC prevented it from competing for funding in the same manner as its competitors.

In 1991, in another attempt to compete in the cable market, the RTVC purchased FamilyNet from prominent pastor Jerry Falwell.

Six years later, in 1997, the RTVC was merged with the SBC's then-Brotherhood Commission and the Home Mission Board to form NAMB. The new entity was created as part

of the SBC's Covenant for a New Century restructuring in an attempt to lower operating costs and create greater efficiency in resources.

While the Brotherhood Commission was completely absorbed into the new agency, the RTVC continued to operate as a subsidiary of NAMB. The mission board was again streamlined in 2004 under growing economic pressure and reduced staff and budget by nearly 50 percent. Radio production ceased the following year.

The Fort Worth newspaper reported that last year the entity had 37 employees producing its radio and TV content from the site.

Since NAMB's focus of evangelism, church planting and sending, and equipping missionaries took priority over broadcast television production, it became obvious that FamilyNet could never reach its full potential under NAMB.

On Oct. 25, 2007, NAMB President Geoff Hammond and prominent Atlanta pastor Charles Stanley announced the sale of FamilyNet to Stanley's In Touch Ministries. Under that agreement, NAMB will continue to have 30 minutes of programming on both the television and satellite radio channel each week. Also, a NAMB representative will hold a chair on FamilyNet's board of directors.

In the meantime, NAMB still makes video production a priority and is currently developing a program to air on FamilyNet.

## ERLC's platform guide compares parties side by side

Nashville (BP)—Voters have a lot on their minds as they ponder which candidate to support in the upcoming presidential election—a shaky economy, the war on terrorism, the energy crisis.

"With so much at stake, we all need to do our homework before we step into that voting booth," said Richard Land, president of the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission.

"There is no reason for any voter to willingly forfeit their right to vote in this election or any other election," Land added. Even if none of

the candidates seeking the presidency exactly squares with what a voter desires, he said that does not allow for a pass to sit at home on Election Day.

Voters do not have to wonder where the two major U.S. political parties stand on the issues of the day, Land noted, referencing the ERLC's recently published guide that compares the Democratic and Republican platforms side by side.

The quadrennial Party Platform Comparison Guide, which covers a wide range of issues, pulls selected excerpts from both the Democratic

and Republican party platforms on such issues as civil rights, human trafficking, illegal immigration and stem cell research, among others.

The guides are available for download online at [www.iVoteValues.com](http://www.iVoteValues.com). Full-color print copies can be ordered as well.

"Many pastors are naturally suspicious of so-called 'voter guides,'" Land acknowledged. But, he noted, "the Party Platform Comparison Guide contains no analysis or commentary. The SBC entity has published a similar guide every presidential election since 1992.

## Gutiérrez, former BWA officer, dies

Mexico City—Edna Lee de Gutiérrez, president of the Baptist World Alliance Women's Department from 1985-90 and vice president of the BWA from 1990-95, died Oct. 5.

"The BWA is greatly indebted to many gifted women around the world whose leadership among us has been a source of great inspiration," said Neville Callam, BWA General Secretary. "Edna Lee de Gutiérrez falls in this tradition."

Gutiérrez was involved in Baptist work in Latin America throughout her life. She served as president of the Mexican Baptist Youth Union, the Nicaraguan Baptist Convention and the Baptist Women's Union of Latin America.

She was active in ministry in the local church. Her husband, Rolando Gutiérrez, a Nicaraguan, was pastor of churches in Managua, Nicaragua and Mexico City. Upon returning to her native country of Mexico after 10 years in Nicaragua, the couple wanted to begin a ministry for youth and found a small church of 30 members to sponsor the ministry. Horeb Baptist Church in Mexico City grew into a strong church with many educational programs.

"Edna was an outstanding leader," said Patsy Davis, director of the BWA. "She will be remembered for her great accomplishments during her five years as president of the BWA Women's Department, as well as her passion, self-sacrifice, and example."

In addition to her service as a BWA officer, Gutiérrez was a member of the BWA General Council, the Executive Committee and the Church Leadership Commission.

Gutiérrez is survived by three children. Her memorial service and burial took place Oct. 6 in Mexico City.

## E. Lee James to be nominated as KBC second VP

Paducah—E. Lee James, pastor of Bellview Baptist Church in Paducah, will be nominated as Kentucky Baptist Convention second vice president during the Nov. 11 KBC annual meeting in Lexington.



E. Lee James

James, 64, is the first announced candidate for the post. He will be nominated by Don Mathis, staff evangelist at Eastwood Baptist Church in Bowling Green.

Mathis said he has known James for more than 40 years when the two were bivocational pastors at neighboring churches. He described James as one who "has been and is deeply committed to evangelism and missions ... not only on the local church level but (through) international missions."

"I have preached in many revivals in churches where (James) has served. He is a man of God, a soul winner, a Bible believer, a man of integrity and leadership, and an excellent pastor," said Mathis, who was KBC president in 1985-86. "He will make an outstanding officer in our convention."

Among the concerns James said he would like to address as KBC second vice president is to make evangelism and missions the top priorities in Kentucky Baptist churches.

Churches must "keep the main thing the main thing of reaching the unsaved with the clear message of Jesus Christ," James noted. He added that he also intends to advance the priorities of the KBC president and first vice president.

Bellview Baptist Church, which James has served since 1992, gave 9.3 percent of undesignated receipts to the Cooperative Program and reported 14 baptisms last year, according to the KBC's 2007 Annual Church Profile statistics.

James has served five terms with the KBC's Executive and Mission Boards, and was chairman of the missions/church services committee. He also has served as moderator and evangelism director for West Union Baptist Association, and was a member of the nominating committee for the 2007 Will Graham Area Crusade in Paducah.

A pastor for 43 years, James has led First Baptist Church of Clay; Kevil Baptist Church; Sherman Baptist Church in Dry Ridge; Robards Baptist Church; Independence Baptist Church in Beaver Dam; and Edgemont Baptist Church in Bluefield, W.Va. James is a graduate of Campbellsville University and Luther Rice Seminary in Lithonia, Ga.

## Outdoor expo pursues hunting enthusiasts

By Karen Owen-Phelps  
State Correspondent

Hawesville—The hunters sought better ways to stalk wild game. The fishermen were looking for the secrets to the big catch. Two Kentucky Baptist associations, meanwhile, were pursuing two-legged creatures—lost souls.

The Sportsman's Expo the groups sponsored at the Hancock County Fairgrounds near Hawesville Oct. 4 drew more than 2,000 outdoors enthusiasts, leaders estimated. The event was sponsored by many of the 36 churches within Blackford and Breckinridge Baptist Associations.

Many participants did not know when they arrived, though, that the event was church related. It was not played up on the signs or in the promotion. "It's going to be a first-class outdoor sportsman's expo," coordinator Tony Rodgers said prior to the event. Until recently, Rodgers was pastor of Pellville Baptist Church.

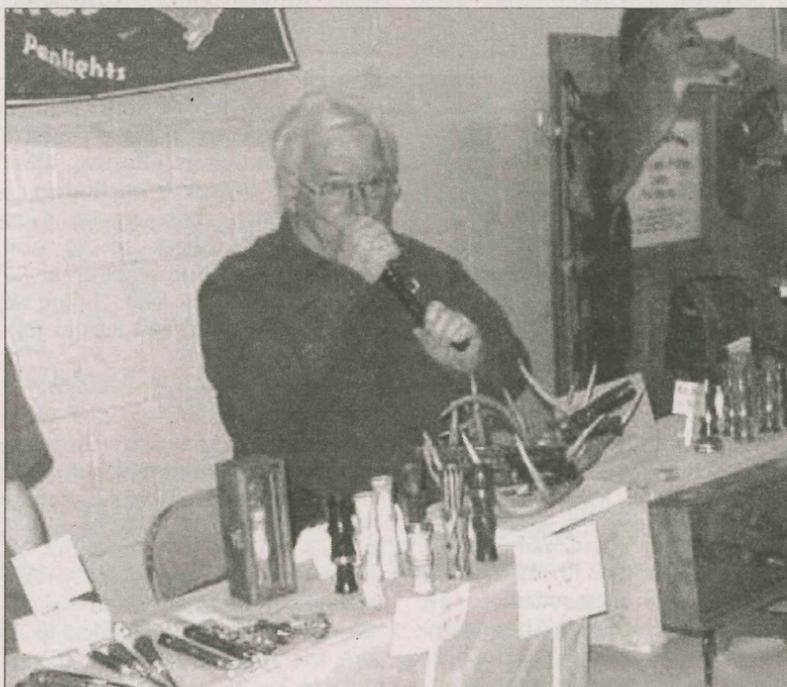
"It's just a ministry that has the potential to reach people we might otherwise be missing," Rodgers explained. "It's an opportunity to give them inroads to something that hopefully will change their lives."

Marty Webb of Paynesville manned a booth at the expo advertising his Meade County wild-game processing business. The show had "a nice little crowd, ... more people than I thought it would be."

Men, women and children dressed in camouflage wandered through booths selling everything from taxidermy services and animal calls to john boats and even camouflage bikinis. Youngsters could compete in the BB-shooting contest or try hunting and fishing simulators. Hunting equipment was given away as door prizes throughout the day and the right to hunt elk in Eastern Kentucky was auctioned off at the end of the event.

Mossy Oak dealer Susan Iglehart of Owensboro thought the unusual outreach effort was a good idea. People attend outdoors-related events for "a lot less than this," she said.

"Anywhere you can take advantage of spreading the Word, we



**CALL OF THE WILD** Don Ensminger of Middletown demonstrates an animal call at his booth at the Sportsman's Outdoor Expo Oct. 4 at the Hancock County Fairgrounds. The event, which was sponsored by two area Baptist associations, drew vendors selling everything from camouflage bikinis to john boats. (Photo by Karen Owen-Phelps)

should do it," noted Ronald Embry, a member of New Life Baptist Church in Hancock County, who brought his 8-year-old son and 11-year-old daughter to the expo. "There are a lot of Christians out here but there are a lot of non-Christians, too."

A short gospel message was delivered by Jimmy Sites of Hendersonville, Tenn., a former Church of Christ pastor who now is host of "Spiritual Outdoor Adventures" on The Sportsman's Channel.

"The best hunter is the best deceiver," Sites explained, telling a crowd in the pavilion about ways to avoid detection by a deer. "The details of the hunt make all the difference in the world."

"I'm not the world's best hunter. Far from it," he added, inviting listeners back to the final presentation of the day. "Let me tell you about the greatest hunter I've ever met. ... I've had a personal experience with Him. Can I say it's life impacting? He has many trophies."

The expo cost organizers about

\$10,000 to put on. About \$3,000 came from the Kentucky Baptist Convention and \$750 came from Hancock County Tourism. The rest was contributed by local churches or industries.

Plans call for local congregations to follow up with contacts made through the expo, Rodgers noted. He said he also hopes churches will host their own outdoors-themed events, such as wild-game suppers or breakfast on the opening day of hunting season.

He compared the expo to "cowboy churches" serving a particular niche in communities. "I believe Christians and Baptists who are eager to reach people where they are need to offer something that will reach them where they are," he insisted.

Men and women who enjoy the outdoors invest a lot of money and time in their hobby, Rodgers added. "I say if you really want to enjoy the out-of-doors, get to know the One who made them."

## Frankfort church thrives in nontraditional setting

Continued from page 1

"There are people who think it might be time for church to go about things differently," Triplett said. "I think there's a healthy movement among church plant folks to meet (individuals) in the place where they are."

As for movie theaters, the Los Angeles Times reported a growing trend of churches in Southern California combining going to the movies and attending church, part of a nationwide movement offering salvation Sunday mornings in nontraditional buildings.

Long said closer to home, churches in Lexington are utilizing cinema space for services.

TPCC is part of the Acts 29 Network, a group of pastors from around the world whose goal is to help qualified leaders called by God to plant new churches and replant declining churches, according to the organization's Web site.

The church's doctrine is reformed

theology meaning the church embraces a view of teaching Scripture that places God at the center of all things and places emphasis on the activity of God and the glory of God in saving the lost.

TPCC accentuates sovereignty of God with salvation through Jesus, Triplett said, adding that the church is a member of the Kentucky and Southern Baptist Conventions and shares many of those beliefs. Funding for Acts 29 churches like TPCC comes primarily from worshippers.

Long said attendance averages 300 each week, with 20-40 new people coming to TPCC each Sunday morning. With new faces, creating an environment conducive to worship is a priority. In fact, the church has a plan outlining all renovations, Triplett noted.

Long said eventually TPCC would like to expand its main campus to include satellite locations in downtown and east Frankfort.

"We have a goal of having two off-

site locations," Long explained. "We want to be more modern and reach folks totally disconnected from any church."

Church leaders say those attending services feel at home in the reformed factory.

"We have found that our people really like the look and feel of the 'industrial' décor like exposed steel trusses in the ceiling and concrete floors," Long said. "Men find the space more masculine than most churches, which is great for us because men are becoming more and more disconnected from the institutional church."

The church—with a congregation composed primarily of those 30 and under—is currently leasing the building with a percentage of the rent money going toward purchase, the pastor noted. He said he doesn't have exact pricing numbers for the cost of the facility.

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**"I believe Christians and Baptists who are eager to reach people where they are need to offer something that will reach them where they are."**

Tony Rodgers,  
Sportsman's Outdoor  
Expo coordinator

## WESTERN RECORDER

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*Earnestly contend for  
the faith which was once  
for all delivered to the  
saints.—Jude 3*

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## Worship debate

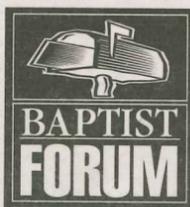
When I read Gail Yonts' opinion about "agreeing to disagree," (WR, Sept. 16) I couldn't help wishing there had been more like Gail from 1979 until now. What she is contending for is a time-honored Baptist way of doing things.

However, my liver hangs a trifle out of plumb when there is applause for performance and performers in worship. I mention this because "show time" usually accompanies the singing of choruses. Years ago someone helped me understand that God is the audience and our worship is laid in devotion before Him.

Many gospel choruses are just that, they preach the gospel. They warm the heart and make us feel good. I'm sure that for many, "feeling good" is a questionable motive for worship, although those same folks probably would like for worship to be less stressful than a root canal.

Are we willing to admit that

one appeal of choruses is that singing them gets more people to the church? There's nothing wrong with that: I'd rather have 70 than seven. In the debate about "contemporary" versus "traditional," I think we will



be helped to remember Bob Terry's words printed recently in these pages: A church is effective when it helps the worshipper to open those mystic gates and ushers her or him into the presence of the Almighty. Isaac Watts said, "Come we that love the Lord, and let our joys be known."

John Huffman  
Louisville

Our Lord's last words to Peter were, "Feed My sheep," words echoed by Peter in 1 Peter 5:2. If that is God's will for Sunday morning sermons, then the parts of the service leading up to the sermon should prepare the hearts for listeners to receive the Word of God. The skills of musical "performers," whose music often attract applause to themselves, do not do this.

## The gospel and wealth

By Dick Staub

Seattle (RNS)—"Greed is right. Greed works. Greed—for lack of a better word—is good." So goes the Gospel According to Gordon Gekko in the 1987 film, "Wall Street."

Jesus, however, had another take. "There is none good but God," he said.

These extreme statements bookend our nation's chaotic financial crisis. So perhaps we need a little theological reflection on our current economic situation.

Judaism and Christianity share common values about money. Hard work, thrift, honesty and savings are given primacy; greed, ill-gotten gain, exploitation of the poor, laziness and irresponsibility are condemned.

In the first century, the Apostle Paul warned that "the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some

people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs."

Wealth is not evil and some early Christians were wealthy, but they were warned "not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth,

which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment."

Despite this perspective on money, many religious Americans have fused the American dream with their vision for their own life. They believe wealth is the sign of God's blessing, and that the richer we are the more spiritual we must be."

This view is at odds with Jesus, who urged people to "seek first the Kingdom of God and all these things (clothes, money, a place to sleep) will be added to you." To

## COMMENTARY

## Porter Memorial celebrates centennial

Recently, members of Porter Memorial Baptist Church in Lexington celebrated the church's 100th anniversary. The celebration featured former pastors and staff, inspiring music, testimonies, dinner under a big tent and lots of great fellowship.

During the Saturday evening celebration, Albert Griffin, pastor from 1969-74, shared the story of the relocation of the church from downtown to its current site on Nicholasville Road.

The new auditorium was dedicated Jan. 4, 1970. Several additions have been made to the facilities over the years, including the additions of a gym, kitchen, classrooms and an expansion of the worship center to accommodate 1,750 people.

Robert Cook became minister of music in 1969 and during the following years developed one of the premier music ministries in Kentucky.

James Pierce, pastor from 1974-99, directed the church in exponen-

tial growth during his tenure. Ministries to the community were expanded, including a radio broadcast of services and meals for the homeless.

In his message, Pierce challenged the congregation to look back in gratitude for what God has done, look around to see how God is at work now, and look forward to see where God wants the church to be involved.

Bill Crawford was called as minister of music in 1997 and has continued the great music ministry. During the Saturday evening service, former choir members were welcomed back for a great musical celebration.

Bill Henard became pastor in 1999 and the growth of the church has continued with a continuing emphasis on FAITH evangelism. Outreach has included an annual "Wild Game Night," "Judgment House," AWANA, recovery groups, ministries for all ages and assistance to Andover Baptist Church in Lexington.

## PARTNERS IN THE MISSION



Bill Mackey

I was brought up to think of the congregation as the "praise team," and that it was my privilege to be part of it. Today's congregational singing is nothing like it used to be. Sometimes I think that microphones were the worst thing to have happened to Christian singing.

Many of us have attended church services in which no shepherd-like, pastoral prayer is offered to God, a very sad omission. I get the impression that monotonous, repetitious music has often left little time for such intercession.

There is a place for joyous singing, offering praise to God. But there also ought to be the cultivation of reverence as well. Have leaders of worship forgotten Isaiah's reverence before God recorded in Isaiah 6?

When we read the Bible's description of the gathering of believers before the throne of God, both exuberant praise and solemn reverence are evident. Contemporary music seldom cultivates a sense of reverence before God, as should be the case with "sinners saved by grace."

Donald MacDonald  
Louisville

make sure his teaching was absolutely clear he warned, "You cannot serve both God and money."

Anything that displaces God is a competitor for our allegiance to Him. The Ten Commandments warn against erecting false gods or idols. Rabbi Abraham Heschel put it this way: "God is of no importance unless of supreme importance."

When everything was stripped from Job, he discovered what really mattered and concluded, "though God slay me yet will I trust Him." Does our contemporary fear betray our displaced trust?

I'm not at all trying to be dismissive of this crisis or of its impact. But I do wonder if we have collectively sold our souls by placing our trust in wealth. The fear we are experiencing is an opportunity to place our trust where it belongs, in God.

Dick Staub is author of "The Culturally Savvy Christian" and host of The Kindlings Muse

Interest in missions has been strong through the years as well. Numerous, annual mission trips have been taken, with groups serving in such diverse places as Russia, Poland, Kenya, Peru, France, Mexico, New York and Slidell, Miss.

The church also has been one of the strongest supporters of missions and ministries through the Cooperative Program. The church has given \$6,923,504 through CP since 1908, with 54 percent of the total having been given in the last 10 years.

Pastor Henard also has given unselfishly of himself by serving in many denominational roles, including serving as Kentucky Baptist Convention president and Southern Baptist Convention first vice president. His message during the Sunday celebration service presented a God-sized and compelling vision for the congregation.

We praise God for large churches like Porter Memorial who are committed to missions, evangelism and ministries through the Cooperative Program.

Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention

## STEWARDSHIP

## Preparing a will is easy &amp; essential, do not put it off

By Laurie Valentine

Approximately 60 percent of adults in the United States die without a will. There are many reasons people do not make a will—procrastination, uncertainty over still-to-come estate tax law changes, or just not knowing how to get started.

Making a will is not a difficult process. Just follow these ten simple steps:

- Determine the value of your estate. List your assets—real estate; investments; bank accounts; life insurance; retirement accounts; and personal property—in one column. List your current liabilities—mortgages, credit cards and other debts—in a second column. Add each column and subtract the total liabilities from total asset value; the difference is the value of your estate.

- Plan for each family member. Your first responsibility is to take care of your family.

- Decide whom you want to name as executor/executrix. This should be someone who is both competent and familiar with your family.

- Decide whom you want to name as guardian for minor children. This person or couple will be given custody of your children if both parents die before all children are 18 years old.

- Determine how you want your estate distributed. Make ample provisions for your spouse and children.

- Consider Christian causes. Consider tithing your estate through the inclusion of a bequest to your church and other Christian causes. The bequests can be outright, or can be used to create an endowment fund from which only the earnings are distributed to the causes named as beneficiaries.

- Provide for common disaster with an alternate plan of estate distribution should something happen to your entire family.

- Choose an estate-planning attorney to assist in making your will.

- Keep your will in a safe place such as a safe-deposit box, a fireproof lockbox, or at your estate-planning attorney's office. Make sure your executor has access to the place where it is kept.

- Keep your will updated. Review it every three to five years to make sure that it continues to reflect God's purposes for your possessions.

Laurie Valentine is trust counsel for the Kentucky Baptist Foundation

## Boundaries are important when helping friends through divorce

**Q: I have a friend whose husband recently left her, but she is not yet legally divorced. I don't want to date her because I know that would not be appropriate or healthy for either of us. How can I help her in her time of need without giving her the wrong idea?**

You do well to be aware of the apparent struggle between the important values of reaching out to help someone in need while keeping healthy boundaries. Your challenge is to find ways that are appropriate, keeping boundary lines clear at all times.

### SINGLES

Logging one-on-one time together can easily be construed as a date. Not spending too much time together requires wisdom on your part. The same can be said for physical touch and personal space. Making a too-personal connection can be avoided by keeping a safe physical distance.

There is much you are not equipped to do. You are not her counselor, divorce recovery group, family or lawyer. Steer her toward all appropriate support systems. The difference between a friend and a counselor includes professional training, the initiative of the counselee and a designated office. Have the humility to know your limits and refer her to people who are equipped and trained to help beyond what you are able to do.

View this as a team approach. It takes a community to support someone who is in need. Help her to network with the appropriate people for the various dimensions of her struggles. Helping her connect with others not only takes a burden off you, it helps the person in need have a fuller network of support.

You are wise not to participate in a mate selection process with someone who still legally has a mate. Trust God for taking care of the needs of the hurting person and be a part of the answer by pointing her toward helping networks of people, all the while remembering your limitations.—James Stillwell

**Q: My husband of 22 years is perhaps the most faithful, conscientious Christian man I have ever known. My concern is that he continues—after several re-baptisms and numerous rededications—to worry about committing the unpardonable sin. Though our pastor and others we respect have talked repeatedly with him and gone over Scripture regarding assurance of salvation, he still struggles daily with this doubt and is miserable.**

A little-known but somewhat common subtype of obsessive-compulsive disorder is called scrupulosity. Rather than receiving deep satisfaction, fulfillment and joy from faith, persons struggling with scrupulosity wrestle with over-concern and over-responsibility resulting in excessive anxiety and guilt. Because their obsessions are so closely related to faith and religious belief, often persons have a difficult time recognizing their irrational nature.

### DOUBT

Indicators of scrupulosity may include:

- Worry about thinking, saying or doing something blasphemous.
- Fear of having committed the "unpardonable sin."
- Intrusive thoughts that are sinful or blasphemous in nature.
- Over-analysis of moral behavior.
- Excessive prayer that is anxiety driven and ritualistic.

Effective treatment for the scrupulosity subtype of OCD is most often a combination of medication and counseling with a Christian counselor who understands the complexity of the struggle. Remember that simply going over biblical passages typically won't work as they would with many persons dealing with different struggles. Because of the brokenness of biology and neurological functioning, sometimes God's provision is wise and careful medical treatment combined with a judicious use of prayer, mind renewal and Scripture.—Scott Wigginton

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## Church styles: Overcoming the fear factors

When asked to address the issue of "church styles," I was not surprised or fearful. I have had a myriad of experiences that have stretched, prodded and nurtured my worship experiences for more than 30 years. I have enjoyed them all.

My youth pastor days included inner-city churches with semi-liturgical and traditional styles of worship. My pastoral days included a wonderfully wide gamut of styles: A rural church in Meade County with a traditional style; a county-seat church in Winchester with a traditional/slightly blended style; a historic church in downtown Nashville, Tenn., with a traditional, slightly liturgical style; a new church plant with seekers' services styled with praise and worship music; and finally, a neighborhood church in Northern Kentucky where we had three different services, classic (traditional), café (video-driven contemporary music in a gym setting) and contemporary (seeker sensitive with praise and worship music).

I do not think it is an intellectual leap to say the style of a church is most often characterized by the style of its worship, which in turn is highly influenced by the style of music. With that in mind, I want to address the issue of church styles.

Generally speaking, five "worship styles" have been identified in Southern Baptist Convention church life: liturgical, traditional, blended, praise and worship, and seeker services. While none of these are inherently better than another, they all say something about the history, vision and purpose of how and why each church seeks to connect with God in worship.

With that said, I would like to wrestle with what I consider to be the "fear factors" inherent in every worship style.

First, I would say that **quality is the kill factor**. If any

of the aforementioned styles are planned and executed poorly, outside of a miracle of God (and they do happen), the potential for authentic, God-honoring worship likely will be "killed." Let me ask you: How many times have you been in a worship service and the quality of every element was so poor that if you had possessed a "kill switch," you would have gladly hit it? No matter the style, quality must be at the top of planning, leading and experiencing worship.

Second, I would say that **relevance is the real factor**. When churches ask themselves what style they should choose, perhaps a better question concerns relevance. "Can we use our style of worship and be relevant?" Again, I would say this is possible with each

of the styles, but not without a clear, concise and carefully thought-out plan to breathe relevance into each element of the service. People must leave our churches with practical ideas about living their faith in the real world.

Finally, I would say that **participation is the seal factor**. I suspect the move from choirs to praise teams was, in part, due to the need to help folks not simply watch worship as a performance, but grasp it as willing participants. However, the performance designation can be just as valid for the praise team as the choir. With video technology to assist, there is really no good reason to leave the congregation outside the pool of worship's deep reservoir of powerful, personal participation.

How are you and your church doing with these "fear factors?" Let me encourage you to be fearless in dealing appropriately and redemptively with each of them. The stakes (worshipping God) are high and the rewards (experiencing life-changing worship) are overwhelming.

Dan Francis is interim pastor of Harrodsburg Baptist Church

### GUEST EDITORIAL



Dan Francis

## Youth ministry in rural areas

I recently had the opportunity to lead a conference on rural youth ministry. In preparation for this, I asked some youth ministers in Kentucky working in rural areas to tell me what they are doing that is successful in reaching their students. As always, I am amazed by what God is doing in youth ministry here. Let me share a few insights gleaned from the conversations we shared.

**Keith Abrams, youth minister at Westport Baptist Church:** "I have kids that get to youth group by horseback, tractor and four-wheeler, so I guess we are rural. I think a big part of why our group works is because I grew up just like them: hunting, fishing, farming, cussing, chewing, dirt-biking, four-wheeling. So I have common ground with them."

**Jay Montgomery, associate pastor at First Baptist Church of Carrollton:** "In rural areas, school events are their social life. ... Rural areas are big on family (birthdays, holidays, special events that everyone celebrates). ... Graduation is one of our biggest events in the community, as is the county fair and local festivals—everyone attends to see who else is there."

**Wayne Yeager, youth pastor at Immanuel Baptist Church in Pikeville:** "Bus ministry is a necessity. I can tell you that we have our pre-bus ministry numbers and post-bus ministry numbers; we practical-

ly doubled overnight. When I was at Crittenden, I could tell students to meet me at church at a certain time, or that our meetings were on Wednesdays at 6 p.m. and they would come. Here, I have to go get them. In fact, I don't do an event anymore unless I have a bus and time to go and get students. It impacts our numbers that much. We pick up kids as far as 30 minutes away from church and my bus run goes about one to one and a half hours each Sunday and Wednesday."

Montgomery agreed: "Bus ministries work well because of there not really being a centralized ... area. Our route for taking kids home—about 10 middle schoolers—takes about 90-100 minutes. These kids would not come otherwise."

**Ryan Coffey, youth minister at Eubank Baptist Church:** "Hard work is important to rural people. Two years ago, I had a deacon that wouldn't support anything I did. His son was in my group and the deacon constantly was a thorn in my side. One day they got in a bind with their hay crop. His son called and asked if I would help them put up hay. I worked about eight hours in the hot sun and when we finished he tried to pay me. I wouldn't let him and I told him to make a donation to the youth fund instead. ... The next Sunday, he gave me a personal check for \$100 and gave an additional \$100 to

the youth fund. Since that day, he has been one of my strongest supporters. Hard work is important."

Abrams agreed: The students "like to work. They do great with mission projects. They love it when you jump in and get your hands dirty with them."

On doing events in the rural communities, **Tree Akers, youth minister at Northside Baptist Church in Elizabethtown** said: "With some of our activities, we would use the resources they had (farms and fields) to pull off events (hay rides, bonfires, yuck days). We took youth ministry to them and didn't wait for them to come to us."

Yeager commented: "Travel is required. We don't have a lot of places we can take students. No fun centers, no malls, no amusement park nearby. We have a bowling alley, Mr. Gatti's and a movie theater. If you want to go to a baseball game, amusement park, etc., you have to travel at least two hours. ... Creativity is required. When everything is a good distance away and you have students who can't afford a whole lot, you need to get creative on how to have events that will impact students and get them out on a budget."

Abrams said: "My kids aren't impressed by fancy or big show-type events. My best-attended event every year is a hay wagon ride to a huge bonfire. We cook hot dogs and s'mores. The kids just like hanging out"

Joe Ball, a former youth minister at Edgewood Baptist Church in Hopkinsville, is youth strategist for the Kentucky Baptist Convention

### YOUTH MINISTRY CORNER



Joe Ball

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## Cooperative effort bolstered Taylor Co. crusade response

By Ken Walker  
Baptist Press

Campbellsville (BP)—The largest spiritual response in Taylor County's history has lessons for Southern Baptist congregations across the nation, evangelist Rick Gage noted.

Churches from such denominations as Southern Baptist, Methodist, Church of God and Presbyterian were among the 25 sponsors of Gage's crusade last month, according to crusade chairman James Jones, pastor of Pleasant Hill Baptist Church in Campbellsville.

And the harvest was much greater than any one congregation could have seen by itself, Gage insisted.

"There's not one local church that could have pulled off what 25 investing in the crusade did," he said. "The need to come together in unity for the purpose of reaching lost souls is enormous.

"There's power in numbers," Gage added. "Coming together in unison like we had in Campbellsville is a wise Kingdom investment."

Initially, Jones was concerned that not many churches would sign on as sponsors. Participation required churches to make commitments such as changing worship service times for the first night of the crusade, contributing financial support and providing counselors.

However, as the first night of the crusade approached, more churches and individuals showed interest, he pointed out.

"It definitely was better than one or two churches doing it on their own. I would advise other Southern Baptist churches to get involved in inter-denominational crusades," Jones said. "I loved to see the number of people saved; it thrilled my heart. But a key was having so many churches involved."

#### "Real deal" crusader

The crusade originated more than a year prior to the event, when Gage sponsored one of his teen camps on Campbellsville University's campus during the summer of 2007. Evangelist Rick Stanley introduced Campbellsville businessman Larry Noe, a longtime friend, to Gage.

Noe had lunch with Gage and went the next night to hear him speak during a time of worship when more than 100 teens responded to an altar call to follow Jesus.

"I had never personally witnessed something that exciting, other than at a Billy Graham crusade," said Noe, a deacon at Campbellsville Baptist Church. "Then I knew (Gage) was the real deal and starting talking with him about coming to Campbellsville.

"Rick is obviously God's man and He's using him in a powerful way. The town of Campbellsville has 393 more Christians now than it did before. That's bigger than some churches here. It's got to have a major, long-term impact on the community."

The cooperation between the churches, community participants and the university also pleased Skip Alexander, a trustee of the



**WORSHIP TOGETHER** Nearly 400 Taylor County residents registered decisions during a Sept. 14-17 outreach conducted by Atlanta-based evangelist Rick Gage. (BP photo)

school and pastor of Campbellsville Baptist Church.

"What I'm excited about is the partnership between (those three)," Alexander noted. "It was the typical Billy Graham (event) philosophy, not to emphasize our differences but to emphasize our unity in Christ."

Dave Walters, vice president for admissions and student services at Campbellsville University, said he became involved early in the discussions about how Gage's campus talks could dovetail with other appearances.

#### Community worship

In addition to the crusade's four evening services, Gage addressed two university assemblies, met with players from the university's football team and visited several area schools.

Considerable advance planning and meetings are necessary parts of any inter-denominational crusade, explained Walters, who also is pastor of Lowell Avenue Baptist Church in Campbellsville.

However, he said the time and effort is worth it because such events offer Southern Baptists opportunities to work with Christians from other traditions.

The crusade also brought a renewed spirit to members of Lowell Avenue Baptist and offered reminders of the tremendous opportunities they have in their own community, Walters noted.

"All of our members have friends in the community from other churches, but it's not often they have the chance to worship with them. And then, to be able to witness so many decisions like that, it gets you going," he said.

Not only do Southern Baptists need to cooperate with other denominations, others need to cooperate with what Baptists are doing, Jones urged.

"I would wholeheartedly recommend it," he said. "We need to work together."



## NAMB commissions more than 100 to the mission fields

By Mike Ebert  
SBC North American Mission Board

**New Orleans (BP)**—Declaring “you have been sent by the Father,” Southern Baptist North American Mission Board President Geoff Hammond and other NAMB leaders commissioned 108 missionaries and chaplains to the North American mission field during a celebration service at First Baptist Church of New Orleans.

In 1845, Southern Baptists created the Domestic Mission Board in large part to reach and minister to people in the city of New Orleans—at the time, the largest city in the South. “We were the city singled out in 1845 because we were so special,” said David Crosby, senior pastor of First Baptist, New Orleans.

In this city where 2005’s Hurricane Katrina still hovers as a prominent backdrop to so many things, Crosby thanked NAMB and Southern Baptists for the many ministry efforts that have focused on the city in the last three years.

“New Orleans is still a mission field,” he said during the Oct. 6 service.

David Hankins, executive director of the Louisiana Baptist Convention, echoed Crosby’s remarks. “There is no better example of partnership than the efforts we have seen here in Louisiana since Katrina,” he said. “We are grateful that you came to our rescue. We are seeing thousands come to Christ who otherwise might not have, had it not been for this crisis.”

Some of those commissioned, like Shani Holland, Julia Parker, Stacy Rains and Debbie and Phil Smith, serve on the mission field in New Or-

leans or elsewhere in Louisiana. Others are serving as far away as Nome, Alaska, and Alberta and Newfoundland, Canada. Several commissioned are serving in and around NAMB’s current Strategic Focus Cities—Baltimore and San Diego.

Jeff Christopherson, a national missionary for urban church planting in the greater Toronto area, said 10 million people reside in the region. “We have a goal of starting 250 churches by 2020,” he told those in the congregation.

Church planter Matt Smith of La Jolla, Calif., told of his efforts to share Christ among the intellectual elite. “We are boldly challenging the false faith of an unbelieving world,” Smith noted.

He shared the story of the son of a prominent leader of a Middle East terrorist organization who has recently joined the church and is boldly speaking out against Islam. Smith asked for prayers as pressure and persecution from radical adherents to Islam are sure to come in the days ahead.

The ministries of the missionaries commissioned were as diverse and widespread as their ethnicities and geographic locations. Lois Sylvia points women to Christ at a crisis pregnancy center in Merced, Calif.; Hannah Schofield provides resources for Hispanic pastors in Raleigh, N.C., helping them more effectively reach the community for Christ; Perry Robinson serves as a chaplain with the Arkansas Department of Community Corrections in Little Rock; Stacy Rains leads children and teen Bible programs at the Rachel Sims Baptist Mission in New Or-



**GOD’S SERVANTS** Matt and Rebecca Smith, church planters in La Jolla, Calif., were among 108 North American Mission Board missionaries commissioned at First Baptist Church of New Orleans Oct. 6. (NAMB photo by John Swain)

leans, the oldest Baptist mission in North America; Erica Mickels shares Christ through life coaching in Philadelphia; and Christopher Ortiz is reaching the urban area in Manhattan’s Lower East Side.

Danny Ray, a hospice chaplain in Tifton, Ga., told those attending the service, “I don’t teach people how to die. I teach people how to live.”

National Woman’s Missionary Union Executive Director Wanda Lee led the congregation in prayer for the missionaries.

In his commissioning message, Hammond told the missionaries, “We are celebrating your calling tonight, but we also want to confirm that you have been sent by the

Father.”

Jesus’ ministry on earth was to “do the work of the Father,” Hammond emphasized, speaking from John 4.

“Our prayer is that His plans become your plans and His work becomes your work,” Hammond noted. “It is an act of obedience. You are not just called, you are sent. Your greatest challenge will be to do the will of Him who sent you. Not just what you want to do.”

Hammond reminded the missionaries “we cannot reap without sowing,” challenging them to keep sowing the gospel even when they don’t see a harvest. “If we sow in tears, we will reap with joy.”

### Two big events in October

#### October brings rest for students, faculty and hard work for special volunteers

For more than 30 years, the first week in October has signaled the beginning of our fall break. Many schools now embrace the concept of having one or more week-long breaks during the academic year. OBI has had fall and spring breaks for several decades. Though our students believe we schedule the breaks for their benefit, breaks are just as important to our faculty and staff. Caring for students 24/7 can be very demanding. Even the most dedicated staff members need to get their batteries recharged.

Another big event takes place the first week of October. When our students returned from summer break, our campground was filled to capacity. While we are wonderfully blessed with volunteers about eight months out of the year, October brings an end to most groups. Several stand out for various reasons, but one is especially extraordinary.

For the past 15 years, Alabama Campers on Mission have been offering their considerable talents. When this group first started coming to OBI, they arrived in mid-June. Since there were normally 80-90 people in the group, we couldn’t take any other volunteers while they were here. We normally like to have between 40-50 volunteers in a given week. That may be two groups of 20-25, or three groups of 15 or so. We have about 50 beds for volunteers, so we mustn’t have more volunteers than we do beds. Several years ago, the Alabama group decided to change their date to October so other groups could come in June.

Since Alabama Campers on Mission come in their motor homes, housing is not a problem.

Though we have extra beds when the group is here, we simply cannot keep up with more volunteers. Keeping 30, 40 or 50 volunteers busy can be a challenge. Keeping 80-90 busy is very challenging. It takes weeks of preparation to make sure we have projects and materials ready.

Alabama Campers on Mission also stay longer than any other group. Most groups spend a week with us; others stay three or four days. Alabama Campers on Mission spend two weeks with us. I’m not sure how tired they are when they leave, but I assure you that we are exhausted.

Like any volunteer group, they bring a variety of talents. Most are up in years but they bring skills learned over a lifetime. We know this group pretty well, so we try to have projects ready that will utilize those skills. This includes the ladies, too.

If you have visited the Oneida display at the Kentucky Baptist Convention in the past 13 years or so, you have likely benefited from the ladies’ skills. We give handmade gifts to visitors at our booth. These ladies have made pot holders, table runners, popcorn bags, pillow covers, aprons and many other items. Each year, about 15 ladies work for two weeks making gifts to pass out at our booth. This year is no exception. If you attend the KBC annual meeting next month, stop by our booth and pick up your special gift.

To all of our wonderful volunteers, we say a big “thank you.” Life would be much more difficult if it were not for the support of our network of volunteers.

W.F. Underwood is president of Oneida Baptist Institute, Box 67, Oneida, KY 40972; [www.oneidaschool.org](http://www.oneidaschool.org); e-mail: [president@oneidaschool.org](mailto:president@oneidaschool.org)

#### THIS IS ONEIDA



W.F. Underwood

### Mission trip follow-up

#### Gillum confirms Holy Spirit is at work in Turkish people

Assistant professor of English Elli Gillum and her husband, Dan, recently completed their third mission trip to Turkey. It gave them an opportunity to see some of the results of their previous trips that involved handing out New Testaments and videos of the “Jesus” film.

“On our last trip we were able to go through the countryside handing out materials and talking to a lot of people,” Gillum noted. “This time, we went back for some follow up and were able to go back to visit some of the people.”

“When we stopped at a restaurant to visit a man we had visited, he came running up to us and wanted to hug the whole group he was so excited to see us. He told us that he wanted us to know that he and his wife were now believers, along with his brother and his wife, because of the “Jesus” video and Bible that we had given them on our previous visit. He went on to tell us that they sit down every night and read the Bible together. He also told us that all their family members come to read the Bible with them and watch the “Jesus” video. They are even showing the video to

their entire village.

“We also saw the effect the gospel is having on kids in Turkey,” Gillum said. “Turkish law does not allow us to talk to or evangelize anyone under 18 years old. We experienced children that wanted the book about Jesus so bad that they would go to their parents and ask them to come and get this book about Jesus. The parents would accept the book and we would tell them to read the story about Jesus and what He did for us to their children. So we are seeing God work through parents in Turkey so there will be a generation emerging that will have knowledge of Christianity.”

“The Holy Spirit is moving through Turkey,” Gillum declared. “We met a shepherd on our last trip. We offered him a “Jesus” video and asked him if he had a DVD player. He told us he did not have one but there is one in his village. He said the entire village gathers every evening and he would take the video and show it to the people.”

Donnie Fox is president of Clear Creek Baptist Bible College, 300 Clear Creek Road, Pineville, KY 40977; toll-free: (866) 340-3196; Web site: [www.ccbcc.edu](http://www.ccbcc.edu); e-mail: [dfox@ccbcc.edu](mailto:dfox@ccbcc.edu)

#### CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Donnie Fox

## Study: Younger evangelicals less conservative than elders

By Robert Marus  
Associated Baptist Press

Washington (ABP)—A large study of religious Americans suggests that white evangelicals' views on gay rights may be shifting, rapidly, to the left.

The survey, which includes one of the largest samples of younger voters' political and religious views ever taken, indicates gay rights are quickly gaining ground among even the most religious of Americans—and especially among the youngest voters.

It also suggests that contentious issues such as abortion and homosexuality will not be nearly as im-

portant in voting decisions this year as they were in the last presidential election. And it concludes that the Democratic presidential nominee, Illinois Sen. Barack Obama, has made little headway in wooing white evangelical voters compared to his predecessor from 2004, Massachusetts Sen. John Kerry.

"Younger Americans, including younger Americans of faith, are not the culture-war generation," Robert Jones, head of the firm that conducted the poll, said Oct. 8. "On issues from gay and lesbian rights to the role of government at home and around the world, young Catholics,

mainline Protestants and evangelicals are bridging the divides that entrenched their elders and (are) ushering in an era of consensus in which the common good trumps the clash of ideologies."

Jones is president of Public Religion Research, which was commissioned by the left-leaning policy group Faith in Public Life to conduct the study.

Echoing the results from a similar, but smaller, poll released a week earlier, the survey found that younger white evangelicals oppose abortion rights in numbers comparable to their elders.

However, they also are far more supportive of legal recognition for same-sex relationships—whether through marriage rights or civil unions.

A slight majority—52 percent—of white evangelical respondents aged 34 and under favor same-sex marriage or civil unions, compared to only 37 percent of all white evangelicals. Both figures are significantly higher than in 2004.

The generation gap is particularly striking on the issue of full same-sex marriage rights. Younger evangelicals are more than twice as likely (24 percent to 10 percent) than the overall white evangelical population to support legalizing gay marriage.

That may be due, in part, to higher exposure among younger evangelicals to openly gay people. While just 16 percent of older evangelicals say they have a close friend or family member who is gay or lesbian, 37 percent of their younger counterparts do. That figure is very similar to the 38 percent of all 18-to-34-year-old respondents who say they have a close relationship with an open homosexual.

Younger white evangelicals also are far less likely than their elders to consider themselves "conservative." Just under half identify themselves that way, compared to nearly two-thirds of older evangelicals.

Nonetheless, support for Arizona Sen. John McCain, the GOP nominee, seems to be only slightly lower among younger white evangelicals than their elders. The survey showed that 68 percent of older white evangelicals support McCain to Obama's 25 percent. For younger evangelicals, the figures were 65 percent for McCain and 29 percent for Obama.

Younger evangelicals also show far more openness to religious pluralism than their older counterparts. While only 30 percent of evangelicals over 34 say a person can be moral without believing in God, 44 percent of younger evangelicals agree with that statement.

Culture-war issues that were at the top of many conservative voters' agendas in 2004 also take a back seat in the latest survey.

Economic issues far outrank concerns over abortion and same-sex marriage as chief concerns in the election. That holds true even for white evangelicals, who did not rank abortion or gay marriage among the top five most important issues.

The survey also shows that younger voters across religious groups are far more supportive of diplomatic efforts over military efforts than their elders. Younger voters are also more open to government solutions to social problems.

"Younger believers—including Catholics and white evangelicals—are significantly more supportive of bigger government and expanding diplomatic efforts abroad," said Rice University sociology professor Michael Lindsay, a Baptist. "It's not surprising, therefore, that they are supporting some of the ideas put forward by the Democrats in 2008. It may very well be that in this election, the conventional wisdom about the 'values voters'—who they are and what they want—gets turned on its head."

### Supreme Court declines case of Bible reading in jury room

Washington (RNS)—The U.S. Supreme Court Oct. 6 refused to hear an appeal from a death row inmate who claimed a jury foreman improperly read the Bible to fellow jurors during deliberations.

The justices declined to comment on the appeal, letting stand the death sentence of Jimmie Lucero of Amarillo, Texas, who was convicted of murdering three neighbors in 2003.

During the penalty phase of Lucero's trial in 2005, the jury foreman read a passage from Romans 13, in which Paul writes that a servant of God is "an agent of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer."

Lucero's lawyers argued that the Bible reading violated his Sixth Amendment right to a fair trial. The Texas Court of Criminal Appeals called the Bible reading a "harmless error."

Lower courts have been split on whether introducing the Bible into jury deliberations violates a defendant's constitutional rights.

"I believe that God has uniquely created every one of His people to impact the world" — Dr. David Platt

meet  
david platt

at the 2008 KBC Annual Meeting Tuesday, November 11, 2008  
Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington

### Join Us for an Evening with David Platt

The 171st Kentucky Baptist Convention Annual Meeting will include an address by 30-year-old church pastor Dr. David Platt, senior pastor at The Church at Brook Hills in Birmingham, Ala. in its final session on Tuesday night. The senior pastor at the 3,500-member Church at Brook Hills since 2006, he has traveled extensively to teach the Bible in churches, seminaries, the underground church and even under shade trees in Africa and Latin America.



For more information visit:  
[www.kybaptist.org/annualmeeting](http://www.kybaptist.org/annualmeeting)

### How are drugs affecting your community?

## Reclaiming Our Communities

...through ministry to substance abusers and their families

Saturday, October 25, 2008

Help bring hope and healing to your community!

#### Madisonville

First Baptist Church Madisonville  
246 North Main Street

#### Lexington

Ashland Avenue Baptist Church  
483 West Reynolds Road

8:00 am - 2:30 pm (local time both locations)

Register online at  
[www.kybaptist.org/reclaiming](http://www.kybaptist.org/reclaiming)

502-489-3530 or  
866-489-3530 (toll free in KY)  
ministries@kybaptist.org

\$20 by Oct. 11  
\$25 after Oct. 11  
(includes lunch)



## PRAYER PARTNERS

Please pray for the following Kentucky Baptist missionaries and ministries:

**Celebrate Recovery ministry at Cumberland Baptist Church in Harlan County.** Pastor Dennis Williams leads this 12-step biblically based recovery ministry sponsored by a dozen churches in the tri-city area. The weekly ministry provides a large-group challenge involving testimony by a former addict, and a small-group experience that provides counseling and accountability. Pray that addicts will receive the love and acceptance of Jesus Christ, trusting Him for the strength to overcome. Pray that former addicts will remain faithful to live out their freedom in Christ as a witness to the community.

**MSC missionaries John and Melissa Fitzwater of Lynch.**

The Fitzwaters direct the Loaves and Fishes Ministry, preparing and delivering nutritious meals to those in need. They also serve the Lord and local community through other acts of service that allow them to share the gospel. Pray that they will have boldness to share the Bread of Life as they serve physical bread. Pray too, that God will provide a full pantry and faith to recognize that God always provides for all their needs.

If you would like Kentucky Baptists to join in praying for a ministry of your church or association, please send the information to Eric Allen at [Eric.Allen@kybaptist.org](mailto:Eric.Allen@kybaptist.org) or call (866) 489-3530.

## MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

■ **BARLOW**—Ohio Valley Church recently called **Justin Reynolds** as pastor.

■ **BOAZ**—Roy Parks Jr. recently resigned as pastor of Wice Church.

■ **CRESTWOOD**—Ballardsville Church recently ordained **Norb Kielma**, **Steve Rumer** and **Gary Underwood** as deacons. **Tony Wolfenbarger Jr.** is pastor.

■ **DAWSON SPRINGS**—Mount Pisgah Church will hold revival services Oct. 19-22, 7 p.m., with **Harold Greenfield** as evangelist. **Roger Felker** is pastor.

■ **HEBRON**—Sand Run Church recently called **John Spray** as pastor.

■ **HENDERSON**—David Simpson recently resigned as pastor of Bellfield Church.

■ **IRVINE**—Friendship Church recently called **Scott Rogers** as pastor.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Jeffersontown Church recently called **Luke Bray** as pastor.

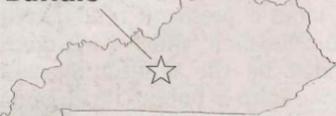
Lakeside Church recently called **Brian Teater** as pastor.

■ **PEMBROKE**—Pembroke Church will hold revival services Oct. 19-22 with **Don Mathis** as evangelist. **Jack Studie** is pastor.

■ **RICHMOND**—Red House Church recently called **Dwayne Abrahamson** as minister of students and recreation. **Butch Tanner** is pastor.

## Spotlight on ...

## Buffalo



Buffalo Church will host a Bible conference Oct. 18, 2 p.m., with **Jeff Anders**, pastor of Eastern Gate Church in Shepherdsville; **Billy Curle**, pastor of Freedom's Way Church in Cecilia; **Ron Davis**, pastor of Franklin Crossroads Church; and Evangelist **Bobby Reno** as guest speakers. A fellowship meal will be served between the two services. For more information, call (270) 325-3820. **Rodney Troutman** is pastor.

■ **SCIENCE HILL**—Northside Church recently called **Steven Newton** as minister of youth and children. **David Muse** is pastor.

■ **STANFORD**—The Church@Cedar Creek celebrated its first building dedication Oct. 5. **Jefferson Calico** is pastor.

■ **WICKLIFFE**—First Church recently called **William Releford** as pastor.



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## October

**18** Christian Women in Ministry State Leaders Forum, Baptist Building, Louisville.

**23-24** Quarterly Prayer Meeting for Spiritual Awakening, Haven of Rest, Inez.

**25** 101 Workshop, Hillcrest Baptist Church, Hopkinsville.

**25** Reclaiming Our Communities, First Baptist Church, Madisonville; Ashland Avenue, Lexington.

**31-11/2** International Student Conference, Cave City Convention Center.

## November

**1** 101 Workshop, First Baptist Church, Somerset.

**8** Girls in Action Missions Event, Rich Pond Baptist Church, Bowling Green.

**10** J.H. Spencer Historical Society Inaugural Meeting, Heritage Baptist Church, Lexington.

**10** Kentucky Baptist Youth Ministers Association Fall Meeting, Immanuel Baptist Church, Lexington.

For more information, call (800) 266-6477 or visit [www.kybaptist.org](http://www.kybaptist.org)

## Campbellsville to host political forum

**Campbellsville**—Who will win the November general election? Campbellsville University's Kentucky Heartland Institute on Public Policy will host a Presidential Politics 2008 forum Oct. 23 to learn more about the candidates running for office in November.

Guest speakers for the event will be Kentucky Attorney General Jack Conway and Secretary of State Trey Grayson, according to John Chowning, Campbellsville's vice president for church and external relations and founder of KHIPP. During the forum, Conway will present the Demo-

cratic party slate, while Grayson will speak for the Republican party.

"A greater awareness of the public policy process and understanding of the numerous issues being debated is essential for the citizenry as a whole," Chowning said. "In this very important election year, it is vital that an informed voter know as much as possible about the candidates."

The forum will be held at 5 p.m. in the Little Auditorium of the Student Union Building. For more information, contact Chowning at (270) 789-5520.

## CLASSIFIED ADS

**FOR SALE:** Church buses and vans—new and used. Call American Bus and Accessories, Inc., (800) 582-7118.

**SEEKING:** Part-time music director to direct music for Sunday services, attend staff meeting on Sunday afternoon, and conduct choir practice on Sunday afternoon. Music education preferred—we'll give you experience. Salary, schedule and extras are negotiable.

**SEEKING:** Minister of education. Virginia church seeks experienced candidate with passion for evangelism, discipleship and missions. Must possess good administrative and relational skills. For more information about church, visit [www.mthermonchurch.org](http://www.mthermonchurch.org). Send resumé to: Mount Hermon Baptist Church, 4385 Franklin Turnpike, Danville, VA 24540; or [david@david.satterfield.com](mailto:david@david.satterfield.com).

**SEEKING:** Senior pastor who believes in the inerrancy of the Bible and has proven skills in preaching, teaching, visitation, counseling, visioning, soul-winning, discipleship and administration. We are a conservative and progressive church with a bright future for ministry and growth in a rapidly growing community just outside of Charlotte, N.C. We have six ministers and numerous outreach programs and specialized ministries, including a large deaf ministry. We are a missions-minded church, supportive of our local association, the Baptist state convention, and the SBC. Send resumé to Donna Jennings, chairperson, Pastor Search Committee, Parkwood Baptist Church, 1069 Central Drive, Concord, NC 28027; or [donnaPastorSearch@carolina.rr.com](mailto:donnaPastorSearch@carolina.rr.com). For general info, visit: [www.parkwoodbaptist.com](http://www.parkwoodbaptist.com).

**SEEKING:** Part-time music minister for South Jefferson Baptist Church in Louisville, Ky. Blended style worship. Send resumé to [katmb@insightbb.com](mailto:katmb@insightbb.com).

**SEEKING:** Pastor for FBC of Grayson, Ky. Send resumé and salary requirements to Roger Whitehead, 1114 Griffith Ave., Grayson, KY 41143.

**SEEKING:** Full-time pastor for Petrey Memorial Baptist Church in Hazard, Ky. Please forward resumé and, if possible, DVD, CD or tape, to Pastor Search Team, Petrey Memorial Baptist Church, 141 Alto St., Hazard, KY 41701. [www.petreymemorial.org](http://www.petreymemorial.org).

**SEEKING:** Minister to design and implement a young adult ministry for a progressive church. Candidates should possess qualities of leadership, initiative and inclusiveness, and should embrace diversity, enjoy teamwork and be skilled strategic planners. Some experience is desired, but not required. Please send a resumé and cover letter to Joe Phelps, Highland Baptist Church, 1101 Cherokee Road, Louisville, KY 40204.

**SEEKING:** Full-time pastor for northern Kentucky Baptist church in Ten Mile Association. Conservative, support SBC and mission giving. Mail resumé to Brian Richards, 10735 Hwy 127N, Glencoe, KY 41046; or e-mail to [holbertju@fuse.net](mailto:holbertju@fuse.net).

**SEEKING:** Full-time pastor for Pleasant View Baptist Church, Waynesburg, Ky. Please send resumé to: Pastor Search Team, Pleasant View Baptist Church, 13571 Hwy. 1247, Waynesburg, KY 40489.

**SEEKING:** Pastor for rural church in southern Woodford County. Parsonage available. Contact Mike Chapman, 1516 Mundys Landing, Versailles, KY 40383. (859) 873-3237.

**SEEKING:** Part-time children's minister. Send resumé and references to: Friendship Baptist, 5411 Bengal Road, Campbellsville, KY 42718.

**SEEKING:** Part-time children's minister (K-8th) for a small, but growing church in Shelby County. Request PD or send resumé to Salem Baptist Church, 8311 Mount Eden Road, Shelbyville, KY 40065; or [drjamese1@bellsouth.net](mailto:drjamese1@bellsouth.net).

**SEEKING:** Part-time music minister for Audubon Baptist Church, 1046 Hess Lane, Louisville, KY 40217. Responsible for blended style congregational worship and choir directing. Mail resumé by Nov. 15, 2008, to Linda Owen, Worship Committee. Cell: (502) 836-8683.

**SEEKING:** Senior pastor for Owenton FBC. Send resumé and DVD, CD or tape of recent sermon to Pastor Search Committee, 213 N Main St., Owenton, KY 40359.

**SEEKING:** Full-time senior pastor for Jamestown First Baptist Church, located in south-central Kentucky near Lake Cumberland and Wolf Creek Dam. All correspondence should be mailed to Norma Wheat, Jamestown Baptist, PO Box 308, Jamestown, KY 42629-0308.

**SEEKING:** Part-time minister of music to lead blended worship at Gethsemane Baptist Church, a conservative Southern Baptist church in Danville. For more information, please call the church office at (859) 236-2581; or Mike Gordon at (859) 516-5169. All resúmes may be sent to 123 Quisenberry Ave., Danville, KY 40422.

**SEEKING:** Full-time pastor for East Hickman Baptist Church, an historic church located 4 miles from Lexington, Ky. Send resumé to: Pastor Search Committee, 2125 Azalea Drive, Lexington, KY 40504.

**SEEKING:** One full-time or two part-time positions: Student minister (grades 7-12) and minister of music. Each position requires 20 hours. If interested in either or both, please send resumé, DVD or CD to Ferguson Baptist Church, PO Box 247, Ferguson, KY 42533.

**SEEKING:** Full-time, enthusiastic, God-called children's/recreation minister to serve an energetic, loving, growing church with exceptional support from dedicated parents and congregation. Full job description available upon request. Please send resumé to FLC Search Committee, Marion Baptist Church, PO Box 384, Marion, KY 42064; or search committee@marionbaptistchurch.com. Deadline is Oct. 31.

**SEEKING:** Full-time pastor for Gap Creek Baptist Church, a conservative member of Cumberland Gap Baptist Association in Claiborne Co., Tenn. Experience is preferred. Gap Creek has an active membership of over 300 and is growing. If possible, send a CD or DVD of sermons along with a resumé to Gap Creek Baptist Church, PO Box 177, Arthur, TN 37707, Attn: Troy Poore. You may e-mail resumé to [trpoore@hotmail.com](mailto:trpoore@hotmail.com); or fax to (423) 869-8777.

**SEEKING:** Piano player for Baptist church in Shepherdsville, Ky.; Thursday nights and Sunday mornings. Paid position—salary negotiable. Call (502) 802-9535.

**TOURS:** Join other Ky. Baptists in 2009 for a Hawaii cruise and tour in February, an Alaska cruise and land tour in June, or a fabulous Holy Land cruise and tour next September. Round trip air will be arranged from your closest major airport. For brochures or to make a reservation, call toll-free, (877) 557-0073.

## Barna study finds evangelicals now are going 'green'

Ventura, Calif. (BP)—Millions of evangelicals have become more environmentally conscious in the last year, according to a study by The Barna Group.

Though they are taking a closer look at the environment, Barna found that evangelicals are doing so with some skepticism about the environmental movement, which they perceive to be tied to media hype surrounding global warming.

Most Christians, Barna suggested, are not satisfied to sit on the sidelines of the green push, and three-fourths of those surveyed said they would like to see their fellow Christians take a more active role in caring for God's creation in an informed and biblical way.

Americans as a whole do not see the environment as one of the top challenges facing the nation, the research group reported. Instead, respondents told Barna the nation's top concerns include the economy; fuel costs; the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan; health care; unemployment; moral concerns; and education.

"If anything, the importance of environmental issues tends to be interpreted through the lens of their economic reality, such as how it affects fuel costs," The Barna group noted.

One out of every two adults surveyed said they have made specific changes to their lifestyles in the last year in light of the environmental impact, Barna found, and a similar proportion of evangelicals had made changes to become more environmentally conscious. Most Americans indicated their changes were prompted by a general concern for the environment rather than a specific concern about global warming.

"Evangelicals are among the most skeptical population segments when it comes to global warming—just 27 percent firmly believe global warming is happening," Barna noted.

Churches for the most part are not addressing how Christians can be good stewards of the world God created, Barna pointed out, and the term "creation care" was not recognized by most of the people who were interviewed.

"Millions of Christians ... want to see their faith communities become more active in environmental stewardship," according to David Kinnaman, president of The Barna Group.

"Since climate change is controversial, many churches have simply avoided dealing with the subject, ceding the conversation to other voices," he added. "It may not be an easy arena to venture into, but the Christian community is ready for balanced, thoughtful, non-partisan and engaged leadership on this crucial issue."

## Challenge to church politics ban may fall flat

By Bob Allen  
Associated Baptist Press

Washington (ABP)—While just 33 churches signed up to participate in a conservative Christian group's "Pulpit Freedom Sunday" Sept. 28, planners viewed it as a success.

That is, organizers said, because its stated purpose was not to inject politics into the pulpit, but rather civil disobedience aimed at prompting a legal battle over an Internal Revenue Service restriction against churches endorsing candidates as a condition of their tax exemption.

However, new polls show that Americans are increasingly uncomfortable with the idea of injecting partisan politics into the pulpit.

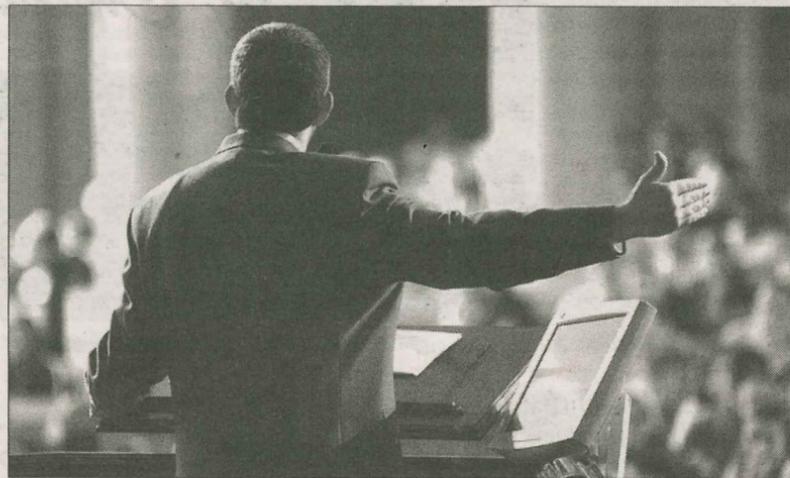
Attorneys with the Alliance Defense Fund indicated they are prepared to defend any pastor targeted by the IRS for endorsing a candidate based on the First Amendment guarantee of the right to free speech.

Meanwhile, Americans United for Separation of Church and State filed complaints with the IRS against six churches for violating federal law by endorsing candidates from the pulpit. "These pastors flagrantly violated the law and now must deal with the consequences," said AU Executive Director Barry Lynn.

Rob Boston, AU's assistant director of communications, noted if any church loses tax exemption because of the event and files suit, the church-state watchdog group would file friend-of-the-court briefs opposing partisan politics in America's pulpits.

In his Pulpit Freedom Sunday sermon, Jody Hice, pastor of Bethlehem Baptist Church in Georgia, endorsed John McCain for president, telling worshippers the Republican candidate has a more biblical worldview than Obama when it comes to issues of abortion and gay marriage. "These are not political issues," the Atlanta Journal-Constitution quoted the Southern Baptist pastor as saying. "These are moral issues."

"According to my Bible and in my opinion, there is no way in the world a Christian can vote for Barack Hussein Obama," declared Wiley Drake, pastor of First Southern Baptist



Church in Buena Park, Calif.

Instead of endorsing McCain, however, according to the Los Angeles Times, Drake suggested that his parishioners vote for a different presidential candidate—himself. A past vice president of the Southern Baptist Convention, Drake is on the ballot in California as running mate of American Independent Party presidential candidate Alan Keyes.

The pulpit initiative comes at a time when many Americans are growing increasingly wary of politics in the pulpit.

A recent survey by the Pew Research Center for People and the Press found that for the first time since the question was first included in their poll 10 years ago, a majority of Americans said churches should stay out of politics instead of expressing their views on social and political concerns.

Another poll, conducted by LifeWay Research, found that 59 percent of Americans disagreed with the statement: "I believe it is appropriate for churches to publicly endorse candidates for public office."

"We saw a very strong response that Americans don't want churches to be actively campaigning for political candidates," LifeWay Research President Ed Stetzer commented.

Brent Walker, executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty, said that is because the ADF initiative was "misguided" and a "brazen attempt to blend the worship of God with elec-

toral politics."

"This initiative certainly will politicize churches more than it will Christianize politics," Walker wrote. "It will assuredly turn our pulpit prophets into political puppets. It will, no doubt, convert our churches into virtual political action committees—where candidates will line up at the church door to seek endorsement."

None of that fazed Eric Stanley, senior legal counsel for the Alliance Defense Fund. "The issue is not necessarily whether a pastor should or should not endorse or oppose a candidate from the pulpit," Stanley told CBN News. "The issue is who gets to regulate that."

"It's our contention that the government should not be the one regulating what a pastor can and can't say from the pulpit," he noted. "It's the pastor's job to determine the content of his sermons, not the IRS."

Stanley said he believes that if challenged, the Johnson amendment—inserted into the federal tax code in 1954—would be ruled unconstitutional. Championed by then-Texas senator Lyndon B. Johnson, it instituted the ban on partisan political endorsements by churches and other non-profit organizations.

Americans United's Lynn is not so sure. "Houses of worship exist to enrich people's spiritual lives, not act like political machines that issue marching orders to voters," Lynn said.

## Study: Religious generosity comes with conditions

Vancouver, British Columbia (RNS)—Religious people are more helpful and generous than others—but only on two conditions, according to a new study published in the prestigious journal *Science*.

University of British Columbia psychology researchers Ara Norenzayan and Azim Shariff concluded that religious people act more kindly than atheists on condition they believe their acts will enhance their reputations among their peers. The second condition is being freshly reminded, in a subconscious way, of the existence of a morally tinged God or supernatural being, the researchers suggested.

Religious people are inclined, under these conditions, to be more giving and honest than others because their belief in God assumes the existence of an all-knowing "supernatural police" force that monitors their behavior, Norenzayan said.

But once researchers removed

the two conditions, Norenzayan noted, "all of a sudden you don't find any differences between the moral behavior of religious people and non-religious."

Emphasizing that he is not out to either defend or attack religion, Norenzayan said the *Science* article goes beyond mere anecdotes about religion and looks at the "hard scientific evidence" that anthropologists, psychologists, sociologists, economists and others have gathered during the past 30 years.

"The debate has been so polarized in the past," Norenzayan said. "All I want is for scientists to set aside their likes and dislikes and look at the empirical data."

Norenzayan, who has gained international attention for his psychological experiments into how religion affects the way humans act, said the five-page *Science* article does not necessarily contradict those who argue religion exacer-

bates conflict between cultures.

That is because the UBC researchers discovered that religious people often are more generous and helpful (or "pro-social") to members of their own religion, not necessarily to outsiders.

The scholarly article, titled "The Origin and Evolution of Religious Prosociality," shows that, while it has helped create moral behavior, religion has no monopoly on producing honest and empathic people.

The beneficial role that belief in an all-knowing, morally concerned God has played in history, Norenzayan suggested, is in some cases being replaced by non-religious mechanisms—such as effective policing, courts and social surveillance.

Still, Norenzayan said, religiously motivated virtuous behavior has played a vital role throughout history—by encouraging cooperation among large groups of genetically unrelated people.

## Viewers see rise in homosexual characters on TV

Los Angeles (BP)—Only a decade ago, viewers learned that both Ellen DeGeneres and the character she played on TV had "come out of the closet" and embraced homosexuality. Now, according to a homosexual activist group, broadcast television will have 16 homosexual characters in prime-time series this fall, more than double a year ago.

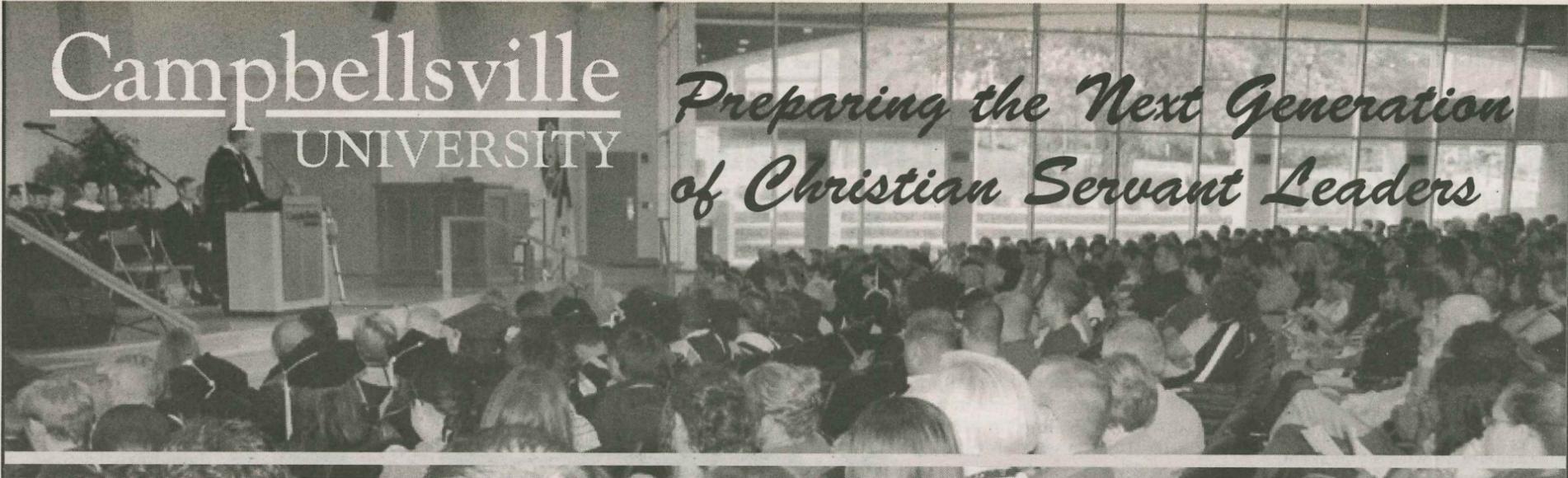
"This dramatic increase shows how far many networks have come in developing complex, multilayered lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender characters," said Neil Giuliano, president of the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation.

GLAAD has analyzed the characters on network television's prime-time scripted programming for 13 years, and they noted that this fall's numbers follow what they call a three-year slump in the introduction of homosexual characters.

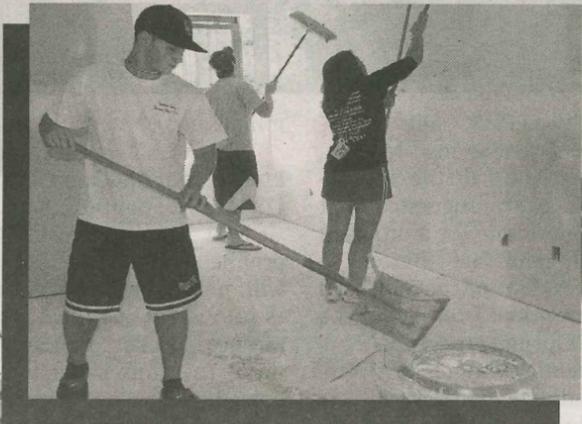
Fox has the highest percentage of regular homosexual characters on any of the five broadcast networks while CBS has no such characters. The number of non-contract recurring homosexual characters also has risen, from 13 last season to 19 this year, GLAAD noted.

# Campbellsville UNIVERSITY

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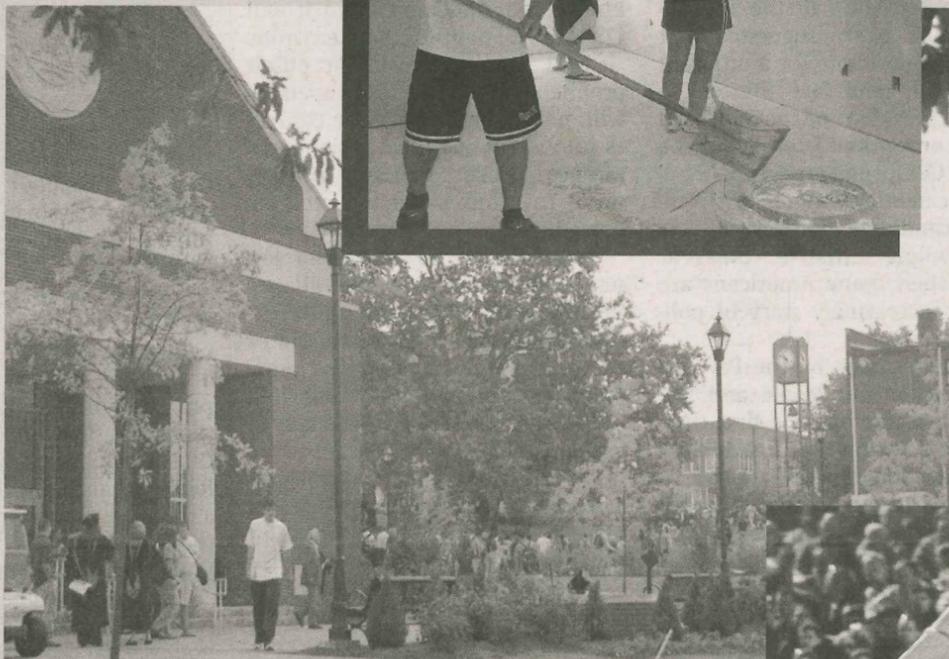
*Fall 2008 Highlights*



A record enrollment of 2,601 students is making for an exciting start of a new school year. Above, Ransdell Chapel was filled as Dr. Michael Carter welcomed everyone to CU at the first convocation service.

At left, CU students work in the Kentucky Heartland Outreach (KHO) program for first-year students. Each year students have opportunities to be stewards completing community service hours required by CU's innovative FIRST CLASS program.

Rick Gage's GO TELL Ministries crusade drew hundreds, below, in a scene from the revival. Nearly 400 people made first-time professions of faith.



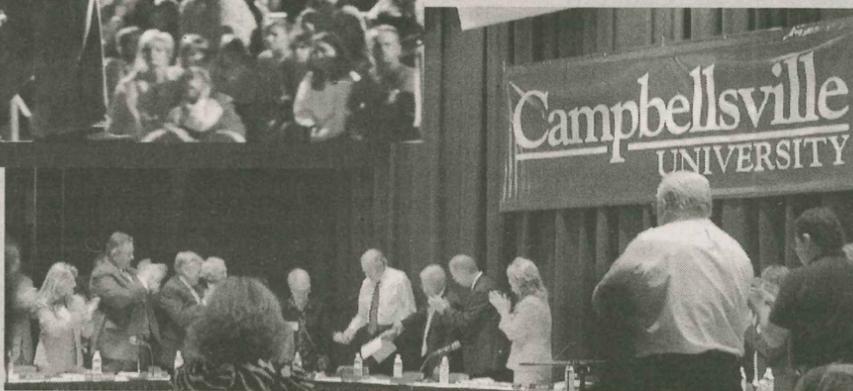
Above students and faculty head back to class after the first convocation in Ransdell Chapel.

Continuing prayers, recommendations of Campbellsville University to students, financial support and advocacy are critical.

CU honored leaders, supporters and friends, at right, State Sen. Vernie McGaha, left, and retired State Rep. Russ Mobley and his wife, Carole.



CU was host to the Kentucky General Assembly Interim Joint Legislative Committee on Education, pictured below.



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